AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An automated form identification method, comprising:

storing electronic forms data in a digital signal receiving device;

receiving the electronic forms data from the digital signal receiving device at a forms processing computer;

storing a plurality of form templates on the forms processing computer, each form template having a plurality of entry fields and a layout, the layout identifying a form location for each of the entry fields; and

identifying a matching form template for the received electronic forms data based on the entry field locations.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the digital signal receiving device is a mobile digital signal receiving device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the digital signal receiving device is a dropout scanner.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of entry fields has a first field category and a second field category.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

scoring each of the entry fields for each of the plurality of form templates based on field category and the presence of data.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

accumulating a score for each of the plurality of form templates, wherein the form template with the best score is determined to be the form template matching the received electronic forms data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein:

the first field category is indicative of a must fill field and the second field category is indicative of an optional field.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein received electronic forms data in must fill fields contributes most to the best score and received electronic forms data in optional fields contributes to the best score.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the absence of received electronic forms data in must fill fields detrimentally affects the best score.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

assigning a field category to a data entry field in response to the score given to another data entry field.

11. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

assigning a field type to each of the entry fields;

scoring each of the entry fields in response to the field type and in response to received electronic forms data corresponding to the entry field is data of the field type.

12. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

assigning a fixed field length to at least one of the plurality of entry fields;

scoring the entry fields having an assigned fixed field length in response to the character count of the received electronic forms data.

13. (Original) An automated form identification system, comprising:

a digital signal-receiving device for storing electronic forms data;

a forms processing computer capable of receiving the electronic forms data from the digital signal-receiving device;

a plurality of form templates stored on the forms processing computer, each form template having a plurality of entry fields and a graphic layout;

and a form identification processor for identifying the best matching form template for the received electronic forms data.

14. (Original) The automated form identification system of claim 13, wherein:

the form templates have a first field category and a second field category.

15. (Currently amended) The automated form identification system of claim ~~9~~ 13, further comprising:

~~a~~ means for scoring each entry field of the form template in response to received electronic form data entered for the entry;

~~a~~ means for accumulating the field scores into a template score; and

means for identifying the best matching form template in response to the best accumulated score for the received electronic forms data.

16. (Currently amended) The automated form identification system of claim 13, further comprising:

~~a~~ means for assigning a ~~a~~ first field category indicative of a must fill field, and

~~a~~ means for assigning a second field category indicative of an optional field.

17. (Original) An automated form identification method, comprising:

receiving electronic forms data from a forms device at a forms processing computer;

storing a plurality of form templates on the forms processing computer, each form template having a plurality of entry fields and a layout, the layout identifying a form location for each of the entry fields; and

identifying a matching form template for the received electronic forms data in response to the entry field locations.

18. (Original) The automated form identification method of claim 17, wherein:
the forms device is a mobile digital signal-receiving device.

19. (Original) The automated form identification method of claim 17, wherein:
the forms device is a dropout scanner.

20. (Original) An automated form identification method, comprising:
receiving electronic forms data at a dropout scanner;
transferring the electronic forms data from the dropout scanner to a forms processing computer;
storing a plurality of form templates on the forms processing computer, each form template having a plurality of entry fields and a layout, the layout identifying a form location for each of the entry fields; and
identifying a matching form template for the electronic forms data based on the entry field locations.